

Dear Sir

Williamsburg Augst 6th 1783

I have taken y^r first Opportunity, since the Restoration^{of Peace} between our respective Countries, to inform you of the Misfortunes w^t have befallen the two Boxes of Books you left w^t College. I assure you with Truth, that their ill-Take gave me much uneasiness; & that every Thing was done by me to secure them ~~against~~ ^{against} the calamities of Conflagration to w^t this Part of Country w^t was particularly exposed — During of War. The Boxes in w^t they were packed were too large to be conveyed into y^r public Library, as I found upon Experiment; I then ordered them to be carried over to Presidents House, in which I lived. But that House, with every Thing it contained, was consumed by Fire. My Books, Furniture &c shared an equal Fate with your Property.

There was indeed a few Volumes of yours saved from y^r flames. Facilities complete, some of Vol. of Locke & one or two other Books.

Mr. Bracken who promises to take Charge of this, will sh^r you met with him, inform you more particularly; and I hope you will be persuaded, at least by him, that nothing was wanting on my Part to secure your Property here, or that y^r above Accident is by no means imputable to any Neglect of min.

Fortunately, Mr. Jefferson had taken previous to Fire, about £30 sh^s worth of your Books. By a Law in this Country they were subject to Confiscation. It appeared more prudent to part with a few, than expose & whole w^t certain Loss. Be sure, I am persuaded, after having y^r Books valued — to commit a Bill according to their Amount. It w^t be proper, perhaps to add up him upon y^r Subject, & inform him of your Place of Residence.

Yours former Friends in this Place, except Mr. Everard, who is no more, are well. Mr. Wyke is Prof. of Law. Dr. Miffling of Physic^s in College, now dignified with y^r name of The University, begins to flourish, tho' it has been much injured by the War. —

May I flatter myself that you will favour me with y^r Correspondence. Nothing w^t be more agreeable to me, both on Acc^t of the Esteem I have for you, and the Advantages I shall derive from literary Intelligence — for after so long & total a Suspension of all Inter course with a Country so highly respected for literary Fame, your Communications w^t be particularly interesting. We still look to England, as y^r Source from whence

we may derive the greatest Benefit, & among the rest,
that of Knowledge cannot be estimated as we least —
If new Light has been thrown upon the Subject of Nat. Phil. ^{in wth} I
doubt not, I in wth I am still engaged, if upon Morals, Religion
&c in wth I expect soon to be engaged, having exchanged the
Math. Department for that Prof^{ts} you will oblige me much
by such Information.

As Republicans, we are striving to render our Country
virtuous & happy. This undoubtedly is the first Object of every good
Citizen. But we are sensible how much the Sciences may
contribute to this important End. Your Love of Man kind-
will, I am sure, dispose you to assist those laudable Efforts, and I
flatter myself I still possess so much of your regard, as to
induce you to believe, that such assistance will be received with
gratitude by myself at least —

I did intend to have written long Friends M^r Gavathia
& Miller — but doubt whether Mr B's unexpected departure may
not prevent me. I am happy when these yourself and M^r J. have
met with your deserved promotion. I beg to premise them my
best Respects & sincerest wishes for their happiness — & before
you that I am with & greatest Esteem

Dr Sir
My Friends Sers^{ts}

J. Madison

Rev^r Mr. Bentley

Ch.A.2.103

If there be anything here, in wth you think I can serve you, I hope
you will command me.

R.W.1000 (a)

Ch.A.2.103

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Rev Mr James Geddes



Hanow on the Hill
Bolton Middlesex

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550

Dear

Rev. Mr. S. Henley

favoured by the Rev. Mr. Bracken